

We claim:

1. A compact business card scanner comprising:

a housing;

a platen positioned in the housing, the platen having a first surface adapted to support a business card to be scanned, and having a second surface opposed to the first surface;

a sensor module mounted within the housing, adapted for reciprocal motion within the housing and adapted to convert an optical image of a scanned business card into digital data representative of said optical image; and

a display device positioned in the housing and adapted to display a graphic image of the scanned business card.

2. A compact business card scanner comprising:

a first housing and a second housing movably attached to said first housing;

a platen positioned in the first housing, the platen having a first surface adapted to support a business card to be scanned;

a sensor module mounted within the first housing, adapted to be moved under the platen and adapted to convert an optical image of a scanned business card into digital data representative of said optical image; and

a display device positioned in the first housing or in the second housing and adapted to display an image of the scanned business card.

3. The compact business card scanner of claim 1 or claim 2 wherein the sensor module is a contact image sensor module.

4. The compact business card scanner of claim 1 or claim 2 wherein the sensor module is a charge coupled device sensor module.

5 5. The compact business card scanner of claim 1 or claim 2 wherein the display device is a liquid crystal display (LCD) screen.

6. A method of scanning a business card comprising:
providing a business card to be scanned;
providing a compact business card scanner having a platen;
providing a sensor module within said scanner;
placing the business card face down on the platen;
moving the sensor module under the platen;
scanning the business card with the sensor module to generate representative image digital data;
processing the generated digital data in a processing unit;
storing the digital data in digital data storage media; and
displaying the digital data graphically utilizing a display device.

7. The compact business card scanner of claim 1 or claim 2 further including at least one processing unit (CPU) and coupled digital data storage media.

8. The compact business card scanner of claim 7 wherein the digital data storage media is removable.

9. The compact business card scanner of claim 7 further including installed software adapted for scanning optical images, converting optical image data to representative digital data, processing and storing said digital data in image file format, and displaying graphically the digital data image files.

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10. The compact business card scanner of claim 7 further including installed software adapted for scanning optical images, converting optical image data to representative digital data, processing said digital data by character recognition routines to generate text files, sorting and storing said text files, and displaying the digital data text files as text.

11. The compact business card scanner of claim 7 further including installed software adapted to provide a user interface for selection of displayed image and control of displayed image zoom in, zoom out and scroll functions.